

Meeting Minutes
Weed Beach Building Committee
November 1, 2007 – 7:30pm
Room 119, Town Hall
Special Meeting and Public Hearing

Present: S. Swiatek, P. Hovell, D. Parnon, M. Hawley, J. Enters, C. Darby, M. Wright

Absent: J. Howe, P. Hendrickson, J. Branigan

Guest: D. Halstead, Stearns & Wheler

Audience: Peter Eder, Kathy Eder, Margot Hand, Ann Marie Kvinge, Mary Ann Hanson, John Bracchitta, Rich Gunzel, Mora Spanganberg, Adela deLoizaga, Harry Molwitz, Candace Hughes, Alec Molwitz, Valerie Mesedahl, Kurt Mesedahl, Jo Lombardo, Rose Buch, Pat Benzenberg, Bob Green, Gwynne Ggrimes, Lucille Miner, Susan Speilman, Peter Spielman, Rob Williamson, Marian Martinelli, Jim Baker, John Keena, Walter J. Casey, Vin Burke, Eric Parnon (see attached list – 2 pages)

Hovell began the Public Hearing at 7:37pm.

Public comments:

Rich Gunzel, 170 Nearwater Lane

1. Concerned about placement of guard house with respect to the emergency escape route via sewer plant used by the Bay residents during periods of flooding. Concerned the guard house will impede evacuation efforts.

Jody Bishop, 22 Brush Island

1. Guard house location too near the entrance to Brush Island, concerned about cars stacking up and blocking access to Brush Island

Vin Burke, 15 Duffy's Lane, Parks & Recreation Commissioner

1. Submitted two letters: Kristen Harnisch & Donna Miller (see attached)

Candace Hughes, 15 Chestnut Street

1. Suggested a catering company be hired to provide food through use of a van or truck

Alex Molwitz, 15 Chestnut Street

1. Suggested portable food stands and a water slide

Marianne Hanson, 76 Dubois

1. Concerned about a man made sand dune, waste of money, likes the beach the way it is.
2. All the beach needs is clean sand.

Jo Lombardo, 6 Gideon Lane

1. Against artificial sand dune

Judy Bishop, 22 Brush Island

1. Beach should be maintained properly: tennis courts, paddle courts and playground should be repaired and beach cleaned up

Susan Faulkner, 27 Nearwater Lane

1. Do we have statistics to support the Master Plan?
2. Do we know how many people use the beach from June to August?
3. Do we know the number of families that bring children?
4. How often is the beach being used?
5. Beach needs cleaning up, not enhancing.
6. No shrubbery, boardwalk or sand dunes.

Rich Gunzel, 170 Nearwater Lane

1. Concerned about the sand dune and boardwalk diverting high water toward the bay.
2. Planted dunes will have to be maintained resulting in an ongoing cost to the town.

Barrett Faulkner, 27 Nearwater Lane

1. Sand dunes will be swept into the parking lot during winter storms
2. Wants more trees, more picnic tables, more sand

Peter Spielman, 18 Gardiner Street

1. No boardwalk, no dunes
2. Keep existing trees and add more trees
3. Not enough demand for a concession stand.
4. Make sure there is a vendor to run the stand before sinking money into building a snack bar building

Margot Hand, 27 Brush Island, Friends of Weed Beach

1. What will the priority be considering the money approved by the BOF?

Peter Eder, 7 Red Barn Road

1. Against boardwalk and sand dune

Kurt Mesedahl, 35 Hazel Street

1. What is the review process?
2. What is the procedure once the design is approved?
3. Questioned when the public will have another opportunity to give feedback.

P. Hovell's response:

WBBC approves the design and gives their recommendation to Parks & Rec. Commission. Parks & Rec. the plan they approve to Board of Selectmen. BOS pass the plan they approve on to BOF and the RTM. P&Z, EPC, Building Dept. and Health Dept. will also have to approve the plans according to their codes and regulations. WBBC is hoping to get through this approval process over the winter to give Stearns & Wheeler The go ahead to draw up the final construction plans in time to go out to bid summer of '08. Construction to begin fall of '08, to be completed by spring of '09.

Peter Spielman, 18 Gardiner Street

1. Will there be more public hearings?

Adele deLoizaga, 91 Mansfield Avenue

1. Addressed Kurt's question, there will be a P&Z public hearing

Rich Gunzel, 170 Nearwater Lane

1. There is consensus among the audience on the key issues. What guarantee is there that these issues will be addressed and incorporated into the plan?

J. Enters response:

Addressed process prior to tonight's meeting – WBBC is going out of our way and bending over backwards to address the public's concerns.

Alex Molwitz, 15 Chestnut Street

1. Trees

Gwynne Grimes, 55 Allwood

1. Can we post comments on the WBBC web site?

Rich Gunzel, 170 Nearwater Lane

1. Questioned whether comments were included on the web site. Are the meeting minutes on the web site?

Vin Burke, 15 Duffy's Lane

1. Supported G. Grimes suggestion to put minutes on web site.
2. WBBC must be more interactive.

Barrett Faulkner, 27 Nearwater Lane

1. Guard house concern

(11/1/07)

Susan Faulkner, 27 Nearwater Lane

1. Prioritize projects

Jo Lombardo, 6 Gideon Lane

1. Requested WBBC send meeting warnings to newspapers
2. Addressed sand quality

S. Swiatek's response:

Sand is bid out. Town policy is to take lowest bidder. Have money in budget for good sand for April delivery.

Adele deLoizaga, 91 Mansfield Avenue

1. Quoted newspaper articles – communication is a problem. Newspaper articles are misleading.
2. Attended the Parks & Rec. meeting where a comment was made about being diligent in identifying options for the snack bar. Concern is that the restaurant idea (or all year round food service) is still an option under a different description.
3. Submitted a petition with 200 signatures against all year round food service.
4. More picnic tables, outside seating OK
5. Can the volleyball court be moved?

Marian Martinelli, 305 West Avenue

1. Recounted story about Harry Connick Jr. photo shoot at Weed Beach for Men's Vogue

Peter Eder, 7 Red Barn Road

1. No sense of urgency in this crowd, let the deadlines go

Public Hearing ended at 8:40pm

Special Meeting began at 8:48pm

P. Hovell's Chairman's Report included: several WBBC members met to discuss the concession stand to start developing alternatives. Parks & Rec. did adopt WBBC's recommendation to drop the restaurant idea and pursue alternatives.

Issues

Guard House: location

Enters questioned whether or not the evacuation route Bay residents use through sewer plant is officially sanctioned by the town. Location of guard house is where the gate to the beach currently exists.

Swiatek, driveway would be widened to accommodate two cars widths on either side of the guard house, allowing cars to pass.

Guard house was moved to recapture water/beach view and include trail to keep it within the park grounds. Could be moved back 50 feet to clear Brush Island access.

Berm: native planting area

Benefits: reclaim beach, soften area, make area more environmentally friendly, improve view, act as a buffer

Move boardwalk back, add 5 feet of boardwalk and the berm width is reduced to approximately 25 feet. More trees can be added to the planted berm area for more shady beach area.

Boardwalk:

Addresses ADA issues, serves to connect areas, safety

Move boardwalk behind the trees on what is currently asphalt, it is on grade (remember 11' is 0), no railings needed, ADA compliant

(11/1/07)

Volleyball court:

Detail that can be addressed later

Addition of boat racks is a Parks & Rec. decision

Boat launch at Weed is for small boats that can be carried or wheeled on a dolly – no trailored boats

Snack bar – move building off the beach, needs more storage

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Next Meeting: November 7, 2007, 7:30pm, Room 119, Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Parnon, Secretary
(approved 11/28/07)

(11/1/07)